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LETTER DATED 6 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 6 August 1999, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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Annex

Letter dated 6 August 1999 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force (SFOR). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier SOLANA

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (21 June-20 July), there were approximately 30,100 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and 16 non-NATO countries. Stabilization Force (SFOR) troops continued to conduct surveillance and reconnaissance by means of ground and air patrols, with combat aircraft flying approximately 105 hours. During the reporting period, the only changes in the force size and composition were the withdrawal of a Norwegian company with approximately 150 personnel and armoured vehicles and a Russian reinforced company, which temporarily left as part of the advance party for KFOR in Kosovo.

2. SFOR continued to monitor entity compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), which prohibits the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with an intensified presence on the ground in order to enforce the intent of the embargo. There have been encouraging results from the increase in efforts to discover weapons either voluntarily handed over by the entities or uncovered by SFOR.

3. On 6 July, SFOR troops in multinational division south-west, acting within their mandate, detained an individual indicted for war crimes by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The individual, Radislav Brdjanin, was later transported to The Hague.

4. During the reporting period, the overall situation became more stable. The general atmosphere in Republica Srpska is much less tense since the end of the Kosovo conflict. There has been no evidence of any planned anti-SFOR/ international organization activities in the theatre. With high profile events such as the recent indictee arrest and commemorations of the fall of Srebrenica, no openly hostile attitudes or behaviour towards SFOR have been noted. SFOR continued to ensure compliance with the Peace Agreement and undertake routine framework operations in order to ensure that the tension and unrest in the region did not jeopardize the stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Operations mounted by the multinational divisions across the SFOR area continued area reconnaissance, surveillance involving ground and air patrols, and weapon storage site inspections, as well as support to international organizations in theatre.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

5. Despite NATO action against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the entities remain substantially compliant with the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. However, throughout the reporting period tensions remained in contested areas, and acts of intimidation and violence occurred with the attempted return of minority displaced persons and refugees. Incidents occurred during late June in the areas of Bijelina, Dobor, Banja Luka and Prijedor. The issues of the return of minority displaced persons and refugees will continue to strain inter-ethnic relations, and SFOR continues to provide surveillance and

security in support of the flow of refugees into their former houses in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

6. During the reporting period, a total of 351 military weapons storage sites inspections were carried out by SFOR, including 144 Bosniac, 41 Bosnian Croat, 146 Bosnian Serb and 20 Federation site inspections.

7. Following the lifting of the training and movement ban for the entity armed forces on 21 June, normal training and movements have been conducted in compliance with the instructions to the parties. However, as a result of non-compliance with the instructions to the parties, the ban on the Republica Srpska Police Anti-Terrorist Brigade remains in effect until further notice. In total, 805 training and movement activities have been monitored: 310 Bosniac, 78 Croat, 365 Bosnian Serb and 52 Federation. However, at the meeting of the Joint Military Commission on 17 June it was judged that the level of compliance by all entity armed forces with regard to training and movement had been encouraging and that, as a result, SFOR would undertake a complete review of training and movement regulations.

8. The summer demining campaign has continued, with 44 entity armed forces teams conducting 825 mine-clearing operations and removing 3 anti-tank mines, 95 anti-personnel mines and 30 unexploded ordnance from 75,731 square metres of land. However, a Republica Srpska Army (VRS) dispute over non-payment of allowances to deminers has arisen. While soldiers' basic wages have been paid normally, the dispute concerns an additional allowance for soldiers employed in humanitarian demining that was negotiated within VRS last year.

Cooperation with international organizations

9. Within capabilities, and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the International Police Task Force (IPTF), the Office of the High Representative, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). SFOR has provided security support to IPTF and local police in dealing with disputes over returns of displaced persons and refugees and has continued its presence in sensitive areas to guarantee a secure environment after the Brcko arbitration decision and to monitor the exhumation campaign of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. SFOR supported the return of the international organizations to the Republica Srpska as the threat diffused, and continued to provide guidance on the present security situation and its likely development.

10. After prolonged lobbying by SFOR, the Office of the High Representative and OSCE, agreement was reached at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM) held on 15 July, to establish a permanent secretariat for SCMM, representing the entity ministries of defence and the entity armed forces. The secretariat began its work on 19 July. Furthermore, SCMM agreed to establish two working groups. One of the groups, comprising the entity armed force commanders, will consider detailed proposals to reduce the armed forces of the Republica Srpska and the Federation by 15 per cent by the end of the year. The

other, comprising the entity defence ministers, will draw up proposals on a common security policy for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

11. Sarajevo, Mostar, Banja Luka and Tuzla airports now have authorized operating hours of 0400-2000 GMT for civilian traffic.

Outlook

12. The Stabilization Pact Summit, scheduled for the last week of July, will focus the attention of all local entities and the international community. SFOR will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of the situation in Kosovo. Isolated incidents can be expected as a result of the return of refugees and displaced persons.